

SUB 17

a single piece frame, said frame having a top side and a bottom side;  
storage compartments within said frame that are each configured and dimensioned to receive a sample tube containing a chemical or biological sample, each of said storage compartments having an inner wall and being open at the top side of the frame and open at the bottom side of the frame so that a sample tube is insertable within the inner wall of the storage compartment and into the storage compartment from either the top side of the frame or the bottom side of the frame and is removable from the storage compartment from either the top side of the frame or the bottom side of the frame with one and the same orientation of the sample tube with respect to the frame, and

AB

means for retaining a sample tube within each of said storage compartments, said retaining means being an integral part of said frame, said retaining means being a part of the inner wall of each storage compartment, that part of said inner wall being configured and dimensioned to cooperate with a part of the outer wall of a sample tube in order to retain the sample tube at a predetermined position within said compartment.

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#### REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments, following remarks, and proposed drawing. Claims 1-5 were pending in the subject application and applicants have amended claim 1.

The drawings were objected to for failing to show line A-A in Fig. 1. Attached Fig. 1 shows this line. If this amendment is acceptable to the Examiner, new formal drawings will be submitted. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is earnestly solicited.